

77-6663/1

16 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Andrew T. Falkiewicz
Assistant to the Director

SUBJECT : Some Notes on the Foreign Press

In connection with your note about [] let me summarize our current policy on relations with the foreign press. ST

Because of existing security restrictions, we make it a practice not to admit foreign correspondents to the Headquarters grounds (the first exception was made under controlled circumstances in the case of President Carter's visit). In general terms, I believe this is a sound practice, for two reasons:

a. It eliminates the cumbersome and unnecessary complication of distinguishing between so-called journalists from Soviet type countries and those from, say, NATO countries.

b. It avoids the equally cumbersome complication of embarrassing our NATO allies, none of whom have open-door policies for either their own or foreign press representatives in the case of their intelligence establishments.

The reasons I have cited are admittedly negative. In a positive vein, we do have quite normal working relations, by telephone and otherwise, with accredited representatives of the non-Soviet press. This normalcy excludes, however, our individual background sessions, for essentially the reasons already cited above. I may say, however, that this approach has met with overwhelming understanding on the part of the foreign press with all of whom, incidentally, I have worked closely for several years now. In addition, the DCI has met in the past, and I hope that you will want to continue this tradition, with a selected group of senior foreign correspondents based in Washington. [] ST

Andrew T. Falkiewicz

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Approved For Release 2004/03/16 : CIA-RDP80M00165A002400100007-1

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Approved For Release 2004/03/16 : CIA-RDP80M00165A002400100007-1